Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for supporting wireless communications, the method comprising ~~steps of~~:

allocating a first channel to support message transmissions from a base station to ~~multiple~~ a field unit[[s]];

allocating a second channel to support message transmissions from the field unit[[s]] to the base station;

assigning time slots in the first and second channel for message transmissions between the base station and the field unit[[s]];

analyzing a marker contained in a message received in a time slot to determine a timing adjustment to be made at [[a]] the field unit to synchronize the field unit with the base station; and

transmitting a feedback message containing the timing adjustment to the field unit.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1 further comprising ~~the step of~~:

partitioning the first channel into active and standby time slots, wherein active time slots correspond with field units transmitting a data payload on a reverse link traffic channel.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 2 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

detecting a request by [[a]] the field unit to transmit a data payload from the field unit to the base station;

assigning the requesting field unit an active slot in the first channel; and

allocating traffic channels to support a data transfer between the requesting field unit and the base station.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 3 further comprising ~~the step of~~:

reassigning the field unit a standby time slot in the first channel after completion of the data transfer.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 3 further comprising ~~the step of~~:

maintaining synchronization between the field unit and the base station by analyzing at least one message received on a traffic channel and adjusting timing of the field unit based upon a feedback message to the field to advance or retard timing.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1 wherein the marker is a string of pilot symbols.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1 further comprising ~~the step of~~:

dividing the first and second channels into a predetermined number of time slots to support periodic communications between the base station and ~~each of multiple~~ a plurality of field units.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein the timing adjustment is transmitted to the field unit over a paging channel.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the timing adjustment is a multi-bit value transmitted to the field unit notifying the ~~requesting~~ field unit of an amount to advance or retard timing.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the field unit[[s]] ~~are~~ is notified of time slot assignments based upon messages over a forward link paging channel.

13. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the base station analyzes a field unit message and determines whether to advance or retard timing of the field unit.

14. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein time slots are assigned in the first and second channel based on a predetermined offset.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein the timing adjustment is a single bit in a time slot that indicates whether a corresponding field unit should advance or retard timing.

16. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein transmissions on the first channel are encoded using BCH.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

assigning short pseudo-random noise (PN) codes for use by a field unit, a short PN code being transmitted by the field unit in an assigned time slot to provide an indication to the base station.

18. (Original) A method as in claim 17, wherein an assigned short PN code indicates a request by the field unit to transmit a data payload to the base station.

19. (Original) A method as in claim 17, wherein an assigned short PN code indicates a request by the field unit to remain in a standby mode.

20. – 29. (Canceled)